

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1-27 (canceled).

1 28. (previously presented) A method for enhancing
2 auditory capacity by amplifying a natural movement of a
3 vibrating ossicle tract, said method comprising the steps of:
4 converting an acoustic signal into an electrical signal;
5 and
6 converting said electrical signal into a mechanical
7 oscillation of a coil adapted for positioning in a
8 middle ear, wherein said converting said electrical
9 signal into said mechanical oscillation of said coil
10 utilizes a permanent magnet separate from said coil
11 adapted for being solidly attached on a promontory.

1 29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28,
2 wherein said coil is adapted for placing in an area of an
3 ossicle chain.

1 30. (currently amended) The An implantable hearing device
2 ~~of one of claims 13-16~~ comprising:
3 at least one permanent magnet adapted for being solidly
4 attached on a promontory in the area of the middle
5 ear; and
6 at least one coil, separate from said permanent magnet,
7 adapted for placing in the area of the middle ear,
8 said hearing device for implementing a method
9 comprising the steps of:
10 converting an acoustic signal into an electrical signal;
11 and

12 converting said electrical signal into a mechanical
13 oscillation of a coil adapted for positioning in a
14 middle ear.

1 31. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An implantable hearing device
2 ~~of claim 26~~ comprising:

3 at least one permanent magnet adapted for being solidly
4 adjustably attached on a promontory in the area of
5 the middle ear; and

6 at least one coil, separate from said permanent magnet,
7 adapted for placing in the area of the middle ear,
8 said hearing device for implementing a method
9 comprising the steps of:

10 converting an acoustic signal into an electrical signal;
11 and

12 converting said electrical signal into a mechanical
13 oscillation of a coil adapted for positioning in a
14 middle ear.

1 32. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An implantable hearing device
2 ~~of claim 27~~ comprising:

3 at least one permanent magnet adapted for being solidly
4 attached on a promontory, in an adjustable fashion,
5 in the area of the middle ear; and

6 at least one coil, separate from said permanent magnet,
7 adapted for placing in the area of the middle ear,
8 wherein an air-gap between said permanent magnet and
9 said coil can be adjusted by post-implantation
10 adjustment of said magnet, said hearing device for
11 implementing a method comprising the steps of:

12 converting an acoustic signal into an electrical signal;
13 and

14 converting said electrical signal into a mechanical
15 oscillation of a coil adapted for positioning in a
16 middle ear.

1 33. (previously presented) The method of claim 28,
2 wherein said coil is adapted for placing at the tympanic
3 membrane.

1 34-44 (canceled).

1 45. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said coil
2 placed behind a tympanic membrane.

1 46. (new) A method for enhancing auditory capacity,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 converting an acoustic signal into an electrical signal;
4 and
5 converting said electrical signal into a mechanical
6 oscillation of a coil positioned in a middle ear by
7 utilizing a permanent magnet, separate from said
8 coil, solely attached to a promontory.

1 47. (new) The method of claim 46, wherein said coil is
2 positioned behind a tympanic membrane.

1 48. (new) The method of claim 46, wherein said coil is
2 positioned at a tympanic membrane.

1 49. (new) The method of claim 46, wherein said coil is
2 positioned in an area of an ossicle chain

1 50. (new) The method of claim 46, wherein said permanent
2 magnet is removeably attached to the promontory.

1 51. (new) The method of claim 46, wherein said permanent

2 magnet is attached on the promontory in an adjustable fashion.

1 52. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein an air-gap
2 between said permanent magnet and said coil can be adjusted by
3 post-implantation adjustment of said magnet.

1 53. (new) A method for enhancing auditory capacity,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 placing a coil in the area of a component of the middle
4 ear;
5 attaching a magnet, separate from said coil, solely to a
6 promontory; and
7 converting an electrical signal into a mechanical
8 oscillation of said coil, wherein said mechanical
9 oscillation is transmitted to said component of the
10 middle ear.

1 54. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein said coil is
2 placed behind a tympanic membrane.

1 55. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein said coil is
2 placed at a tympanic membrane.

1 56. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein said coil is
2 placed in an area of an ossicle chain

1 57. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein said permanent
2 magnet is removeably attached to the promontory.

1 58. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein said permanent
2 magnet is attached on the promontory in an adjustable fashion.

1 59. (new) The method of claim 58, wherein an air-gap
2 between said permanent magnet and said coil can be adjusted by

3 post-implantation adjustment of said magnet.

4 60. (new) A method for enhancing auditory capacity,
5 comprising the steps of:
6 placing a coil in the area of a component of the middle
7 ear;
8 solidly attaching a magnet, separate from said coil, on a
9 promontory; and
10 converting an electrical signal into a mechanical
11 oscillation of said coil, thereby providing said
12 mechanical oscillation to said component of the
13 middle ear.

1 61. (new) The method of claim 60, wherein said coil is
2 placed behind a tympanic membrane.

1 62. (new) The method of claim 60, wherein said coil is
2 placed at a tympanic membrane.

1 63. (new) The method of claim 60, wherein said coil is
2 placed in an area of an ossicle chain

1 64. (new) The method of claim 60, wherein said permanent
2 magnet is attached on the promontory in an adjustable fashion.

1 65. (new) The method of claim 64, wherein an air-gap
2 between said permanent magnet and said coil can be adjusted by
3 post-implantation adjustment of said magnet.

1 66. (new) A method for enhancing auditory capacity,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 attaching a coil to a component of the middle ear;

4 attaching a magnet, separate from said coil, on a
5 promontory, such that said magnet is solely attached
6 to said promontory; and
7 converting an electrical signal into a mechanical
8 oscillation of said coil for providing said
9 mechanical oscillation to said component of the
10 middle ear.

1 67. (new) The method of claim 66, wherein said coil is
2 placed behind a tympanic membrane.

1 68. (new) The method of claim 66, wherein said coil is
2 placed at a tympanic membrane.

1 69. (new) The method of claim 66, wherein said coil is
2 placed in an area of an ossicle chain

1 70. (new) The method of claim 66, wherein said permanent
2 magnet is removeably attached to the promontory.

1 71. (new) The method of claim 66, wherein said permanent
2 magnet is attached on the promontory in an adjustable fashion.

1 72. (new) The method of claim 71, wherein an air-gap
2 between said permanent magnet and said coil can be adjusted by
3 post-implantation adjustment of said magnet.

1 73. (new) A method for enhancing auditory capacity,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 attaching a coil to an eardrum or to a component of the
4 ossicle tract;
5 solidly attaching a magnet, separate from said coil,
6 solely on a promontory, such that said magnet is

7 attached to said promontory in an adjustable
8 fashion; and
9 converting an electrical signal into a mechanical
10 oscillation of said coil to transmit said
11 oscillation to said eardrum or to said component of
12 said ossicle tract.